

Remarks

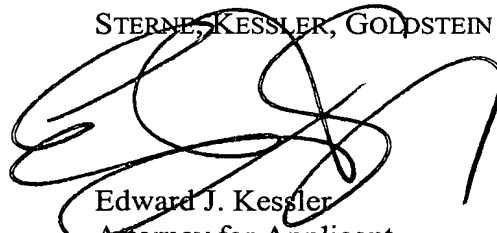
Applicants thank Examiner T. Nguyen and Primary Examiner N. Vo for the courtesy of a personal interview held with Applicants' representatives, Edward Kessler and Lori Gordon, on September 11, 2003, regarding the present application. During that interview technical differences between Tanno, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,078,572) and independent claims 1 and 10 were discussed. The Examiners agreed that Tanno fails to disclose "receiving status reports from said group of transceivers in an access channel shared with other transceivers in said group." The Examiners further agreed to withdraw the final rejection.

In the Office Action dated July 1, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanno, et al., U.S. Patent 6,078,572 (Tanno). However, in Applicants' Reply to Restriction Requirement dated November 19, 2002, Applicants elected to prosecute the invention of Group I, represented by claim 1-12 , in the present application. The remaining claims were withdrawn from consideration in the present application. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner clarify whether the Restriction Requirement as to claims 26 and 27 has been withdrawn.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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